



**Port Community Information Bulletin # 40-04**  
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189  
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: September 27, 2004

## **Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for U.S. Waters**

Effective September 27, 2004, the Coast Guard, under the authority of the non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act and the National Invasive Species Act, is requiring mandatory ballast water management practices for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks bound for ports or places within the U.S. or entering U.S. waters. This rule will increase the Coast Guard's ability to protect U.S. waters against the unintentional introduction of non-indigenous species via ballast water discharges, which have had significant impacts on the nation's marine and freshwater resources, biological diversity, and coastal infrastructure. It will also comply with the requirements of the non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 and the National Invasive Species Act of 1996.

**REQUIREMENTS:** The mandatory program requires all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks entering U.S. waters after operating beyond the EEZ to employ at least one of the following BWM practices:

- (a) Prior to discharging ballast water in U.S. waters, perform complete ballast water exchange in an area no less than 200 nautical miles (nm) from any shore.
- (b) Retain ballast water onboard the vessel, or
- (c) Prior to the vessel entering U.S. waters, use an alternative environmentally sound method of Ballast Water Management that has been approved by the Coast Guard.

Vessels are required to electronically submit ballast water management reporting forms via E-mail or Web based methods available at the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse website:

<http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/submit.html>. Ballast Water Reports must be submitted 24 hours prior to arrival in the port listed in Section 2 of the form; Arrival Port. If your voyage will take less than 24 hours, a Ballast Water Report must be submitted before the vessel departs on its voyage.

The vessel owner or operator must maintain accurate copies of the ballast water records onboard the vessel as required by 33 CFR 151.2045 and the forms must be readily available upon request. Additionally, we will use the ballast water reporting forms that must be submitted in advance of a vessel arriving at a U.S. port as required by 33 CFR 151.2040 to verify and ensure that the vessel has conducted BWM. Penalties for failure to comply with any of the BWM regulations, including reporting requirements, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

For further information please contact my Ballast Water Management Project Coordinator, Petty Officer Vaupel at 813-228-2195 x8138.

/s/  
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Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port